



MCMaster UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, September 13, 2017, 1:30 PM in MUSC 230

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Gail Britton, Dianne Coventry, Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting, Anna Fleming, Nora Gaskin, Heather Grigg (chair), John Horsman, Betty Ann Levy, Carolyn Rosenthal, Shep Siegel

Regrets: Cliff Andrews, Beth Csordas, Les King, Peter Sutherland

Heather welcomed returning Council members, and new members John Horsman and Shep Siegel.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting May 10, 2017 (for approval)

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded** by Brian Beckberger

“that the minutes of May 10, 2017 be approved”

Carried.

2.2 AGM June 7, 2017

Review of the minutes was deferred to the October Council meeting.

3. Human Resources Report (Anna Fleming)

3.1 Sun Life denial/changes in coverage due to new data feed errors from Mosaic:

- The first Sun Life interface feed took place on July 1; the McMaster Peoplesoft system now feeds data to the Sun Life system every Thursday.
- On the initial feed there were some discrepancies between Mosaic data and Sun Life data. These affected 3 known individuals. Their discrepancies have been resolved. In some cases Sun Life was administering benefits as though the retirees were still active employees; those have converted to the appropriate retiree coverage.
- Members should direct queries about any further anomalies to HR.
- **Action:** Anna has asked the responsible HR person to prepare a statement about this for us to send out to the listserv and to publish in *MURAnews*.

3.2 Pension statements

- a. Timing for those who have not yet received one
 - This summer, and every 2 years from now on, all retirees were to receive a statement listing their pension entitlements and beneficiaries, in compliance with new legislation by the Ontario government.
 - Due to several contributing factors there are 300 people who haven't yet received a statement; this includes several Council members.
 - The project end date for sending out the statements is Oct. 31; anyone who hasn't received a statement by Oct. 31 should contact HR.
 - **Action:** MURA will take measures to let our members know about this. Anna has asked the responsible HR person to prepare a statement for us.

- b. Q. How can retirees get answers to queries that arise, e.g. the wording about the “7 year guaranteed pension”, which was a recent source of confusion for one member?
 - A. Call the HR office advisor that supports the last department you worked with before retirement. The list is online at <http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca/link.php?link=hrservices:hrservcent>

3.3 Emergency travel/Allianz claim form question:

- When a recent out of province/country claimant encountered difficulty, Allianz, the company that administers this coverage, said that to make a claim one must first contact Allianz at their general phone number. Allianz will then open a claim and send the member an Allianz claim form (not a Sun Life form as indicated in the current documentation).
- **Action:** Anna will verify this information, then update the online instructions at the HR website: <http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca/med/document/HR-McMaster-Retiree-Out-of-Province---revised-11242016-1-43.pdf>.

4. President's Report (Heather Grigg)

4.1 Committee Chairs, Liaisons and Special Projects for 2017-18

- Council reviewed the list of chairs liaisons and special project leads and identified changes for the current year. A few vacant positions have been filled and a few more still require volunteers.
- **Vacant positions and tasks filled:** Helen Barton will serve as interim chair of the Communications Committee; Les King will head the Nominating Committee; Shep Siegel will act as MUFA liaison; John Horsman will join the Communications and MURANews Committees; Joan Parker has joined the Christmas Lunch Committee; Nora Gaskin will serve as web master; Beth Csordas will take over Fundraising; Betty Ann Levy will monitor the MURA voicemail; Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting will monitor the MURA mailbox in GH B108.
- **Positions still requiring volunteers:** Condolence cards, Trips & Special Events (Chair and committee members), Unifor liaison

- 4.2 Council reviewed and approved the letter to new retirees, distributed prior to the meeting.

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5. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

5.1 Council reviewed the Treasurer's written report, distributed prior to the meeting.

5.2 Motion to enact a bylaw regarding signing officers

Moved by Nora Gaskin, **seconded** by Brian Beckberger

"That Council enact a bylaw regarding signing officers, as stipulated in MURA Constitution clause 6.07:

The signing authority for MURA financial accounts shall include the MURA President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. The signature of any two of these shall constitute legal signing authority."

Carried.

6. Reports on Special Projects

6.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Beth Csordas per Helen Barton)

There is \$77,833 in the endowment fund, up by about \$600 since the last report. Our current target is \$85,000 for 2018. If we increase the fund by \$7,000 we can increase the annual scholarship from \$2,000 to \$2,500, and the part-time student prize from \$550 to \$750. The goal is to send the annual fundraising mailing out by the beginning of November.

6.2 Archives (Mary Johnston) – no report

6.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards – no report

7. Information Reports from Committees

7.1 **AGM** (Gail Britton) – A written report was distributed prior to the meeting. A few issues to be addressed for the future were identified:

- Parking was a problem again; reserved spots for people with disabilities should be coned off close to the venue entrance, and somebody should be at the gate. Parking commits to this ahead of time but then it doesn't happen. Before the Christmas lunch is advertised in the Fall *MURAnews* it would be good to have a meeting with Parking, preferably with Glenn De Caire. Ideally we would have a designated liaison from Parking. **Action:** Heather will initiate a meeting.
- The AGM had lower attendance than usual. This may have had to do with other conflicting events, but also with interest in the speaker's topic and, in this case, that the speaker had recently presented the same material in another venue. **Action:** For next year we need to ensure we have an interesting, dynamic speaker who hasn't presented recently in a venue that would attract Mac retirees.

7.2 Christmas Lunch (Gail Britton)

There is lots to do between now and October's meeting. Joan Parker has joined the committee. Gail would like to go with the same menu as last year; the cost will probably

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go up again. Beth usually deals with the President's office to see what contribution they will give. Nora will supply the list of guests and award winners. Helen will supply a mailing list for recent retiree invitations, which will be mailed out under Heather's signature. The deadline to have something in the newsletter about the parking and price is Oct. 13.

7.3 Communications

7.3.1 Condolence cards

June

- Bette Read, dod April 10, 2017, Centre for Animal Facilities (Unifor)
- William Hawkes, dod April 13, 2017, Planning & Physical Plant Department (Unifor)
- Karl Kinanen, dod May 19, 2017, School of Social Work (Faculty)
- Peter George, dod April 27, 2017, Economics, President emeritus (Faculty)

July

- Catherine Bentzen-Bilkvist, dod June 18, 2017, Faculty of Business (Unifor)
- Linda Beare, dod March 11, 2015, Medicine (Unifor) – Sister reported death to MURA many months ago. Have spoken to her by phone. (No card sent.)
- Gabriella Feleki-Carr, dod May 14, 2017, Anatomy (Unifor) (email – only email address given for Next of Kin)
- Robert Forrest, dod July 18, 2017, Maintenance (BUC)

August

- Arthur Lesser, dod June 27, 2017, Psychiatry & Behavioural Neurosciences (Faculty)
- Gilbert Murray, dod June 24, 2017, Office of Public Relations (TMG)

September

- Dr. Jean Westermann, dod July 30/17, Biology (Faculty)
- Dr. Heather Arthur, dod July 27/17, School of Nursing (Faculty)
- Mrs. Nina Marusiak, dod Aug. 20/17, Facility Services (BUC)

Known Deaths – No Notice from Human Resources

- Dr. Luis Branda, Biochemistry & Biomedical Science, dod July 29/17, The Hamilton Spectator, August 9, 2017
- Dr. William Wallace, School of the Arts (Music), dod May 6/17, Jackson Hole News & Guide, by reference from Cameron Crowe, McMaster professor emeritus of chemical engineering
- Dr. Iain Stewart, Pathology & Molecular Medicine, dod unknown. The Hamilton Spectator, Sept. 9, 2017, (not in database, but a known professor emeritus)

7.3.2 Web site (Nora Gaskin) – The new website is almost ready to be launched. When it is, a notice will go out via the listserv soliciting comments

7.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Dianne Coventry) – no report

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- 7.5 Membership** (Helen Barton) – Report circulated prior to meeting; Canada Post mailing continues to go down.
- 7.6 MURAnews** (Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting) – The deadline for articles for the Fall issue is Oct. 13. Phyllis encouraged members of council to write a short piece about what they are working on. The stuffing date is Wednesday Oct. 25, 11 am. The newsletter will be published in html on the new web site as well as in the current PDF format. The decision to publish in html was in part occasioned by the fact that PDF documents are not keyword-searchable on the new website.
- 7.7 Nominating** (Les King) – no report
- 7.8 Pensions and Benefits** (Peter Sutherland) – no report
- 7.9 Trips & Special Events** – no report
- 7.10 Volunteering** (Betty Ann Levy) -- A written report was distributed prior to the meeting. Due to changes in the Discovery Program, we're discontinuing our participation. The McMaster Institute for Research on Aging is examining ways to set up an intergenerational learning environment on campus. They intend to involve community groups such as Shalom Village and Westdale residents. MURA will be one of the contact groups for this project.

8. Information Reports from Liaisons

- 8.1 University Board of Governors** (Betty Ann Levy) – A written report was distributed prior to the meeting. The next meeting is a retreat on Friday September 15.
- 8.2 CURAC** (Heather Grigg) – no report
- 8.3 MUFA** (Shep Siegel) – no report
- 8.4 Unifor** – no report
- 8.5 Hourly Staff Liaison** (Dianne Coventry) – no report
- 8.6 Hourly Pension Committee** (Cliff Andrews) – no report
- 8.7 Salaried Pension Committee** (Brian Beckberger) – The next meeting is next Thursday; there will 5 meetings this year rather than the usual 4; this has been necessitated by Ontario legislation.

9. Other Business – none

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:28 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.